

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 592 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DATED FEB 21.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE USUN 592

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, SOCI

SUBJ: TELEVISION COVERAGE OF MRS. ALLENDE'S SPEECH AND
DEBATE ON CHILE IN UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
(HRC)

REF: USUN 564

1. AS EXPLAINED REFTEL WIDOW OF SALVADOR ALLENDE WILL
APPEAR BEFORE HRC EITHER FRIDAY PM, FEB 22 OR MONDAY FEB 25
TO DENOUNCE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY MILITARY GOVERN-
MENT IN CHILE. JUDGING FROM HER LETTER TO SYG WALDHEIM (COPY
POUCHED IO/UNP SHELDON KREBS, FEB 20) HER APPEARANCE LIKELY
TO BE HIGHLY EFFECTIVE.

2. QUESTION HAS BEEN POSED BY HRC CHAIRMAN ERMACORA AS
TO WHETHER HER APPEARANCE AND SUBSEQUENT DEBATE ON AGENDA
ITEM "QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND
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FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS..." SHOULD BE OPEN TO TELEVISION COVERAGE.

IN MEETING OF WESTERN EUROPEANS AND OTHERS (WEO'S) ERMACORA RECEIVED NEGATIVE REPLY TO THIS QUESTION BECAUSE, AS SOME HAVE EXPLAINED, SPECTACLE OF HRC MEMBERS TRADING CHARGES AND COUNTER-CHARGES ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO ALREADY ARDUOUS TASK OF ACHIEVING HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES. SOVIETS HAVE TOLD US INFORMALLY THAT THEY DO NOT FAVOR TELEVISION COVERAGE. ERMACORA, WHO HAS NOT PROVEN STRONG CHAIRMAN, IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION, WHICH HOPES TO HAVE BRIEF HOUR IN SUNLIGHT OF PUBLICITY AFTER LONG OBSCURITY. THEREFORE, HE CONTINUES TO VACILLATE BUT ISSUE MUST BE FACED TOMORROW OR MONDAY.

3. ALTHOUGH, ACCORDING TO SECRETARIAT, NBC AND AN EAST GERMAN NETWORK HAVE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO COVER PROCEEDINGS, US DEL BELIEVES THAT TV COVERAGE IN US WILL PROBABLY BE LIMITED TO ABOUT 30 SECONDS OF MRS. ALLENDE'S SPEECH.

4. RELIZE THAT US HAS GENERALLY FOLLOWED POLICY OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION. GIVEN PROS AND CONS IN THIS INSTANCE REQUEST INSTRUCTIONS ON WHETHER OR NOT TO SUPPORT OPENING DEBATE TO TV COVERAGE. DEPT SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT SINCE MAJORITY OF DELEGATIONS ALREADY APPEAR TO BE OPPOSED, US VIEW MIGHT NOT BE DECISIVE IN ANY CASE. BENNETT

UNQUOTE RUSH

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